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A. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Date

11/9/2022

2. Department

California Energy Commission

3. Organizational Placement (Division/Branch/Office Name)

Efficiency Division

4. CEA Position Title

Deputy Director of Building Standards and Operations

5. Summary of proposed position description and how it relates to the program's mission or purpose.
(2-3 sentences)

The California Energy Commission (CEC) requests approval to establish and fill a CEA position as the Deputy Director of Building Standards and Operations within the Efficiency Division. This position will operate under the oversight and general direction of the Efficiency Director, and will provide high-level policy and administrative support on a range of complex energy issues relating to the development, implementation, compliance, and administration of the California Building Energy Efficiency Standards. The Deputy Director will support all aspects of division's responsibilities in this area, including leading engagement with internal and external stakeholders, and providing oversight of branch managers, supervisors, and staff in support of technical work products and administrative functions. This position will also provide broad support for administrative functions supporting the various programs overseen by the Efficiency Division.

6. Reports to: (Class Title/Level)

Director of Efficiency Division, CEA Level B

7. Relationship with Department Director (Select one)

- ☒ Member of department's Executive Management Team, and has frequent contact with director on a wide range of department-wide issues.
- ☐ Not a member of department's Executive Management Team but has frequent contact with the Executive Management Team on policy issues.

(Explain):

8. Organizational Level (Select one)

- ☐ 1st ☐ 2nd ☐ 3rd ☒ 4th ☐ 5th (mega departments only - 17,001+ allocated positions)

B. SUMMARY OF REQUEST

9. What are the duties and responsibilities of the CEA position? Be specific and provide examples.

Under the general direction of the Director of the Efficiency Division, the Deputy Director is responsible for assisting the Director in all aspects of the division's deliverables including principal policy making authority over the California Building Energy Efficiency Standards and related building standards, and broad authority for a range of other administrative responsibilities supporting the division and its branches. In this capacity, the Deputy Director functions in the place of and as an extension of the Director. The Deputy Director supports all aspects of the division's roles and responsibilities including working with and directing division staff and engaging with internal and external stakeholders. In addition, the Deputy Director has a responsibility to manage and interact with division branch managers, supervisors, and staff regarding the division's analysis, and to provide oversight and management of the division's deliverables, policies, and administrative and budget functions.

This position will be responsible for direct management and oversight of three program branches within the Efficiency Division: the Building Standards Branch, Standards Compliance Branch, and the new Operations and Program Support Branch. This Deputy Director position will have broad authority to inform policy recommendations and reporting related to new buildings and major additions/alterations in California, including advanced water and energy conservation measures, strategies to reduce emission, improve indoor air quality, and allow for load flexibility in new buildings, maintaining a focus on cost-effectiveness and housing affordability, considerations for embodied energy and carbon in construction practices, and supporting local governments in taking actions to improve compliance with building standards and adopt measures that go beyond state and federal code. This position will require close coordination with a range of other agencies local, federal, and state agencies such as the California Public Utilities Commission, California Air Resources Board, California Building Standards Commission, Department of Housing and Community Development, and others to ensure alignment of building energy, environmental, affordability, and equity goals for the state.

B. SUMMARY OF REQUEST (continued)

10. How critical is the program's mission or purpose to the department's mission as a whole? Include a description of the degree to which the program is critical to the department's mission.

- ☒ Program is directly related to department's primary mission and is critical to achieving the department's goals.
- ☐ Program is indirectly related to department's primary mission.
- ☐ Program plays a supporting role in achieving department's mission (i.e., budget, personnel, other admin functions).

Description: The Efficiency Division develops regulations, policies, and programs to help the state meet its clean energy goals, primarily through new measures supporting building and appliance efficiency improvements to generate energy and water savings in both new and existing buildings. The Warren-Alquist Act established the CEC in 1975 along with its core mandates. One of these mandates is for the CEC to adopt, implement, and periodically update energy efficiency standards for both residential and nonresidential buildings through the California Building Energy Efficiency Standards (Energy Code).

The Efficiency Division's mandate has in recent years extended beyond energy and water efficiency to support statewide decarbonization efforts with an emphasis on strategies and actions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with California's building sector. This focus has also grown significantly with the increased emphasis on load flexibility as a resource to support increased integration of variable renewable energy resources and accelerating electrification of transportation and building technologies. Emerging topics related to embodied energy and carbon within buildings, the role that building energy systems play in improving indoor air quality throughout the state, and resilience considerations for new and existing buildings given the rapidly changing climate.

The programs that will be overseen by this new position play a foundational role in ensuring that buildings support statewide climate and energy goals, while also ensuring that maximum benefits are realized by building occupants, in the form of bill savings, improved health and safety, and other co-benefits of clean energy measures. Onsite generation and energy storage technologies are increasingly considered to ensure resilience in the face of outages and extreme weather events and the ability to respond to changing energy prices. The range of needs and considerations for future building standards continues to grow in importance and complexity as further efficiency and carbon reduction gains are realized in each triennial code cycle update, and a growing emphasis on streamlining compliance practices requires broad collaboration with local governments and other entities to ensure those projected savings are fully realized.

B. SUMMARY OF REQUEST (continued)

11. Describe what has changed that makes this request necessary. Explain how the change justifies the current request. Be specific and provide examples.

In 2022, the California Legislature approved a historic budget that dedicates over \$6 billion to clean energy investments, including numerous programs and activities relevant to the building sector, which accounts for roughly 25 percent of statewide greenhouse gas emissions. The federal government has also recently announced funding programs totaling more than \$1 billion for the state of California to support deployment of efficiency and decarbonization measures that will flow through State Energy Offices over the coming years. To deploy these resources to the greatest benefit of Californians will require a detailed knowledge of and coordination with the state's existing efficiency portfolios, utility incentives, and regulatory proceedings, many of which currently are overseen by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC).

The CA Legislature and Governor also sent a strong signal in support of clean energy and efficiency by passing and signing AB 1279 (Muratsuchi, 2022), which codifies statewide carbon neutrality goals by 2045. Decarbonizing the state's building sector is a complex problem that requires extensive coordination across regulatory agencies including CPUC, CARB, and various housing agencies, among others, and consideration of a variety of energy resources beyond just energy efficiency and electrification. Increasingly, load flexibility is a critical tool for reducing system and building greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions while supporting grid reliability and saving individual consumers money on utility bills. To design load flexibility programs that are effective and achieve envisioned outcomes, division management will increasingly require a detailed knowledge of regulatory processes and existing rules governing the state's utilities and community choice aggregators. This includes detailed knowledge of the ratemaking and rate-setting processes, demand response proceedings, and accounting for the potential of additional energy efficiency savings that may be realized through future codes and standards improvements or incentive programs.

As state policy has increasingly emphasized the urgency of transitioning to low-carbon technologies in support of carbon neutrality, the role of state and local building standards has grown in importance. In addition to reducing emissions from the state's existing buildings, new construction adds energy demand and associated emissions each year, and it is important the impact of that additional demand is managed appropriately through deep energy and water efficiency, inclusion of low-carbon technologies wherever they prove cost-effective, consideration of onsite energy generation and storage as appropriate, and emphasizing the need for load flexibility to support electricity system integration. A growing number of local governments have also taken action to advance local reach codes well beyond statewide minimum standards to support requirements for advanced efficiency and electrification measures and encourage electric vehicle adoption locally.

Further, the discussion of building decarbonization now extends beyond the emissions associated with onsite operations and electricity generation and will now be considered embodied carbon in the materials used in building construction. To fully address these emerging topics and ensure building standards are updated consistent with a broad range of existing statutory and regulatory requirements, success will require close and regular coordination with a broad range of state, federal, and local government agencies, in addition to consideration of the needs and priorities of California citizens and stakeholder groups. Perhaps most important are the needs of local governments who are tasked with implementing and enforcing the energy code within their jurisdictions. Recent feedback has highlighted the need for the CEC to explore new statewide tools and strategies to support compliance and enforcement with the Energy Code and ensure the expected benefits are realized by homeowners and building occupants.

C. ROLE IN POLICY INFLUENCE

12. Provide 3-5 specific examples of policy areas over which the CEA position will be the principle policy maker. Each example should cite a policy that would have an identifiable impact. Include a description of the statewide impact of the assigned program.

Specific examples of policy areas over which this CEA position will be the principal policymaker include:

Building Standards Development. This position will oversee development of energy and water efficiency measures under the statewide Building Energy Efficiency Standards, California Green Building Standards, local ordinances, and related building and appliance standards that support decarbonization of California's economy while meeting a range of other state, local, and federal priorities.

Building Standards Compliance Strategies and Tools Local governments are tasked with implementing and enforcing the statewide Energy Code and any local ordinances, in addition to a range of other requirements for building permitting. To do this job effectively requires the development of statewide tools and strategies that streamline building energy modeling, evaluation/inspection, and compliance efforts. Increasingly complex building systems and technologies have created the need for new tools and strategies to ensure estimated savings and decarbonization benefits are ultimately realized.

Local Engagement. Maintaining and enhancing building standards that achieve state policy goals requires close coordination with local governments across the state, to educate and inform of the requirements adopted during any code update cycle and ensure local needs and priorities are reflected in code updates. Local governments are also proactively taking steps to pursue local reach codes that go above and beyond statewide minimum standards in support of local climate action plans. The absence of regular coordination and communication with locals could result in plans and standards that are not achievable and potentially undermine state environmental policy initiatives.

C. ROLE IN POLICY INFLUENCE (continued)

13. What is the CEA position's scope and nature of decision-making authority?

This position will provide management direction and leadership for analysis and deliverables requiring a broad policy perspective and a high degree of political sensitivity including advancement of energy, water efficiency, and load flexibility measures in new residential and non-residential buildings through the Building Energy Efficiency Standards and related building standards. This position will also have authority over maintaining and developing tools and strategies to support statewide compliance with the Energy Code requirements, which will involve close engagement with local governments and other stakeholders to provide technical assistance and education. Responsible for formulating, reviewing, and implementing policies, regulations, and procedures related to the areas listed above. Provides support and leadership for division and special projects such as policy reports, and legislation review that involve interoffice and interdivisional coordination and may require a timely response to Commissioners, the Legislature or Governor. This position will have decision-making authority within the subject areas overseen by three branches of the Efficiency Division, under the oversight of the division director, and in consultation with statewide policymakers and a broad range of stakeholders. This position will also have broad decision-making authority to inform the administrative procedures of the division.

14. Will the CEA position be developing and implementing new policy, or interpreting and implementing existing policy? How?

This position will both advance current and recent policies that have been put forth by the Legislature and Governor and will be required to identify and develop additional policies and strategies that advance California's environmental, energy, and equity goals as they relate to existing buildings. This role is uniquely positioned to develop and put forth new policies and strategies through various policy reporting requirements related to existing buildings, including principal oversight of energy efficiency related discussions and recommendations through the Integrated Energy Policy Report (IEPR) and California Energy Efficiency Action Plan, both of which are required to be updated every two years to advance state energy policy.